

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) An audio decoding method comprising:  
receiving audio data including a plurality of coded sample data;  
decoding the coded sample data;  
grouping respective pluralities of the sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks;  
adding respective control information relating to attributes of the plurality of the sample data in a respective block to ~~that~~ the respective block;  
temporarily storing the blocks; and  
outputting the plurality of sample data of each block that has been temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block.
2. (Currently Amended) An audio decoding apparatus comprising:  
a decoding unit which receives audio data including a plurality of coded sample data, decodes the sample data, groups respective pluralities of the sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks, and adds control information relating to attributes of the plurality of sample data in a respective block to ~~that~~ the respective block;  
a storage unit which temporarily stores the blocks; and  
an output unit which outputs the sample data of each block that has been temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block.
3. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit groups each plurality of sample data into a respective block in frame units.
4. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit groups sample data having identical attributes into one block.
5. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information starting information that indicates sample data from which output control can be started.

6. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, channel information indicating number of channels that are to be output for each sample data.

7. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information number, information indicating number of sample data that have been grouped in one block.

8. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, information indicating a down sample.

9. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, length information indicating word length of data to be output.

10. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, length information indicating word length of data to be output when there are plurality of outputs.

11. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, channel information indicating formation of an output channel.

12. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, slot information indicating number of slots of the output channel.

13. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the number of slots is variable.

14. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, distribution information indicating data distribution of said output unit.